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Letter dated 12 August 2009 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007) and 1845 (2008), I have the honour to convey the attached letter from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, transmitting the seventeenth report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex). The report covers the period from 1 December 2008 to 28 February 2009. I apologize for the delay in transmitting the report.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 20 March 2009 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007) and 1845 (2008), I enclose herewith the seventeenth quarterly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see enclosure). The report covers the period from 1 December 2008 to 28 February 2009. I should be grateful if you would transmit the report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period 1 December 2008 to 28 February 2009.

2. United Nations Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007) and 1845 (2008) request that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union (EU), report to the Council on the activities of the European Union Military Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), through the appropriate channels and at least at three-monthly intervals. This document is the seventeenth such report.

II. Political background

3. Following their initial agreement on 8 November, SNSD, SDA and HDZ continued to meet during the reporting period, and some limited progress was made. A constitutional amendment on the status of Brčko District was adopted by the Council of Ministers and entered the parliamentary procedure in February. Discussions on State property continued, but no agreement was reached because the positions of the parties remained far apart. Discussions on constitutional reform broke down on 21 February. Agreement on Brčko District and State property are the two main outstanding objectives, along with "a positive assessment of the situation in BiH by the PIC SB based on the full compliance with the Dayton Peace Agreement", that would allow for the Peace Implementation Council to decide on the possible closure of the Office of the High Representative. No meaningful progress was made on the resolution of defence property in the reporting period.

4. On 26 January, Miroslav Lajčák accepted the invitation to become Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia and stepped down as EU Special Representative with immediate effect, while remaining as High Representative until a successor is appointed, the process for which is ongoing.

5. On 17 February, the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) handed over documents in support of a criminal investigation against Dodik and others to the State Prosecutor. Republika Srpska politicians responded with a series of threats to withdraw from State institutions. Furthermore, the report has been called into question because of alleged irregularities in its filing procedure.

III. Security situation and EUFOR activities

6. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Although nationalistic rhetoric continued, it had no impact on the safe and secure environment. EUFOR continued closely to monitor the security situation.

7. The force of some 2,200 EUFOR troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate: providing

deterrence; ensuring continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, annexes 1 (a) and 2; and contributing to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment. EUFOR also continues to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies in fighting organized crime in close cooperation with EUPM; and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the search for persons indicted for war crimes.

8. During the reporting period EUFOR, in response to ICTY requests, and with the support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and local police, carried out search operations against support networks for persons indicted for war crimes.

9. There was further progress during the reporting period in the area of joint military affairs. EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) continued to conduct joint inspections of the latter's ammunition and weapon storage sites. EUFOR continues to monitor and advise in order to ensure the self-sustainability of AFBiH capabilities. EUFOR continued to assist and support AFBiH with planning for the disposal of surplus arms and ammunition. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence disposal plan awaits approval by the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina pending political agreement on State property. EUFOR has made the necessary technical preparations on civilian movement control (control of the movement of weapons and ammunition by Bosnia and Herzegovina contractors), and is ready to hand over responsibility to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities once they have adopted the necessary legislation.

10. During the reporting period, EUFOR and AFBiH continued further to develop and conduct combined training based on AFBiH requests to intensify training in specific military fields.

11. Following the Council of the European Union tasking on 10 November 2008, preparatory work for a possible evolution of the operation continues, taking into account the future role of the EU Special Representative.

12. On 4 December, Major General Stefano Castagnotto succeeded Major General Ignacio Martí Villalaín as Force Commander.

IV. Outlook

13. The security situation is expected to remain stable despite the prospects of continuing political tension.